

COMPASS

Community Mapping, Planning, and Analysis for Safety Strategies

COMPASS is a data-driven approach for enhancing community safety through collaborative, strategic problem-solving. COMPASS has four components:

- A collaborative policy group spanning a broad array of city agencies and community interests;
- A comprehensive, data infrastructure that will house a broad set of data collected from a variety of sources (crime incident, public safety, demographic, social and environmental data);
- Strategic analysis of data both spatially and temporally through the use of a user-friendly information system;
- A research partner (or consortium of partners) to assist in the analysis of data, and the development of interventions, and to provide on-going feedback on the outcomes and impacts of interventions.

Building a Collaborative Effort

To promote collaborative problem-solving and identify a wide array of resources for the development of strategic initiatives, each COMPASS site will convene a group of local policy-makers to serve as an interagency policy group. It is envisioned that this group would generally include the following representatives:

- Mayor (and city manager if applicable).
- Chief of Police.
- Chief Prosecuting Attorney.
- US Attorney.
- Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court.
- Heads of Juvenile and Adult Corrections.
- Heads of Pretrial Services Agency, Probation and Parole.
- Heads of the Defense Bar.
- Heads of Social Service Agencies.
- School Superintendent.
- Head of City Information Technology Department.
- Leaders of on-going public safety initiatives (e.g.: Weed & Seed project coordinator; ADAM site coordinator).
- COMPASS Staff (site coordinator, technical director).
- Local Research Partner(s).

This group, as well as the individual members, will be the primary users of information available through a data infrastructure, discussed in more detail below. In concert with the local research partner, this group will analyze the data to identify public safety problems and develop hypotheses about their causes. This analysis will then shape the development of strategies to address local public safety problems. The collaborative group, with the assistance of their research partner, will also monitor the implementation of initiatives, and routinely examine various indicators

to assess the degree to which interventions are having the expected impact on public safety problems.

Development of a Data Infrastructure

One of the core elements of the COMPASS initiative is the creation of a data infrastructure which contains information from a variety of sources. These data will include extant social indicator data (e.g., employment statistics; housing information; land use data; school data; hospital records; asset mapping) and a host of safety information (e.g., incident-based crime data; arrest statistics; calls for service; court and corrections data; victimization surveys; and fear of crime data). Additional information on community risk and protective factors will be developed through special surveys administered at the local level. The exact structure of the data infrastructure will be determined by the local COMPASS team.

While it will not be necessary for sites to have all types of data at the outset, certain types of public safety data (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring or ADAM; incident-based reporting; victimization surveys) will ultimately be required. Further, a key component of the COMPASS model is that the selected COMPASS site become compliant with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS is a redesign of the earlier summary-based Uniform Crime Reporting system and seeks to capture more comprehensive and detailed statistics on each reported crime, information critical to the COMPASS problem-solving effort. For more information on NIBRS and NIBRS compatibility please see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/nibrs.htm>.

Strategic Analysis of Data

The analytic strength of COMPASS lies in the wealth of data and the ability to analyze relationships among key indicators. One analytic tool with which this is done is GIS (Geographic Information Systems), which can be used to analyze and visualize the incidence of crime and other factors spatially and temporally. GIS can also be used to develop and test models of hypothesized relationships among factors. For example, are youth shoplifting after school? Are the assaults concentrated around bars at night or around schools at the time of students' dismissal? Are drug dealers selling in front of a poorly lighted public housing project? Examination of these types of relationships will permit development of data-driven problem-solving strategies that can be implemented in a targeted fashion. GIS can also be used to assess the impact of interventions over time as well as to investigate unanticipated outcomes (e.g., identifying crime displacement).

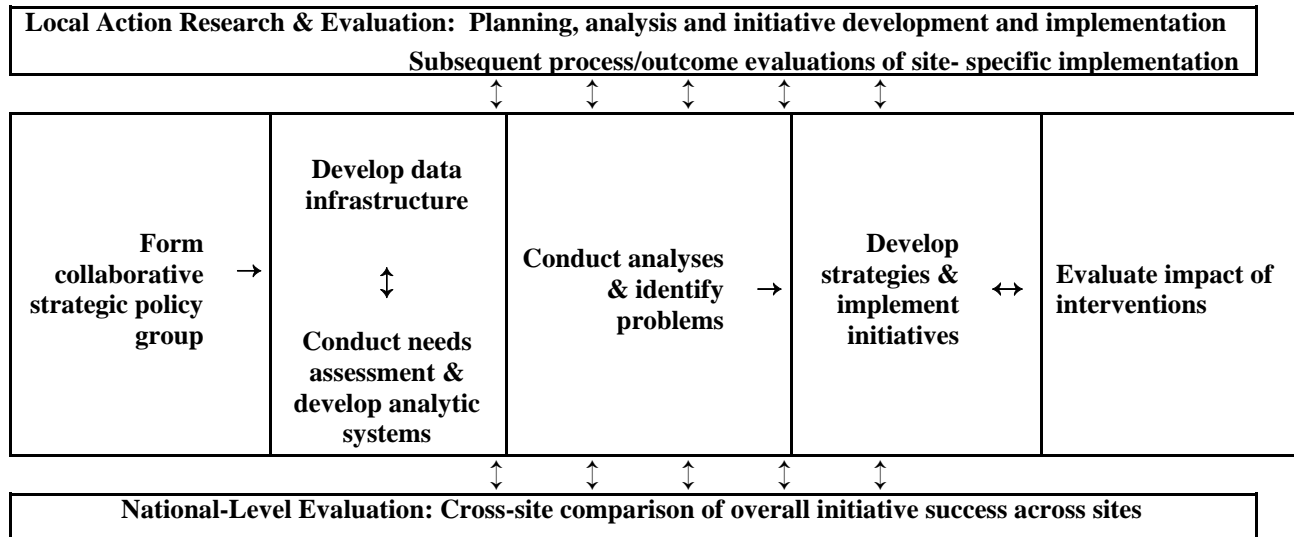
Research and Evaluation Support

The research partner (or consortium of partners) represents a key participant in the COMPASS initiative. The researcher partner(s) will be responsible for: (1) assisting in the strategic development of the local data infrastructure; (2) analyzing data to identify public safety problems; (3) informing the development of interventions to address crime problems with relevant research on what works, best practices, and promising approaches; (4) documenting the process of the COMPASS initiative; and, (5) providing on-going feedback on the impact of interventions. For more information on the role of the research partner in COMPASS see NIJ's Solicitation for a Research Partner for the Seattle COMPASS Initiative at

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/fundcompass.html>.

Planning Model

COMPASS has the following planning elements:



Federal Support for COMPASS

Federal support for the COMPASS initiative will vary from site to site depending on the jurisdiction's existing data sources and information system technology infrastructure. Funding will provide for an initial planning grant and development of the data infrastructure and analysis system. This funding should also be used to develop a local crime incident reporting system that is NIBRS-compliant. Additional federal funding will support a local COMPASS project manager and staff and a research partner. As needed, technical assistance and training will also be provided to both analysts and a local group of policy-makers.

The funding process for all of the COMPASS components will be open and competitive, and managed by NIJ. There will be one pilot site chosen during fiscal year FY 2000. The expansion of COMPASS to approximately 10 sites in FY 2001 will depend on receipt of Congressional appropriations.

Sites are also encouraged to leverage other federal, state, or local resources. For example, Weed and Seed sites are permitted to use up to \$50,000 of local Weed and Seed grant money to support improvements to crime analysis and mapping capacities. There may also be state block-grant funds provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance that might be available for COMPASS activities.

How to Apply

- ▶ Submit letter of intent by May 5, 2000.
- ▶ Submit 15-page concept paper by May 19, 2000. Concept papers should describe:
 1. The need for COMPASS in your jurisdiction;

2. Your general goals and objectives for COMPASS in year one;
3. What stakeholders you would involve and what roles those stakeholders would play in developing COMPASS;
4. How COMPASS will build and inform on other Department of Justice initiatives;
5. The nature of current public safety efforts in your jurisdiction, and experience in cooperative planning efforts;
6. What types of data you collect (e.g., crime data, social and economic indicators, physical characteristics of the environment); types of automated information systems are currently in place; and how you currently use these data;
7. Your jurisdiction's use of Geographic Information Systems and other analytic tools to understand public safety problems;
8. Where you are currently in terms of NIBRS compliance;
9. Your experience partnering with researchers to address public safety problems.

- Send letters and concept paper to:

COMPASS Initiative
c/o Erin Dalton
National Institute of Justice
810 7th St. NW
Washington, DC, 20531 (Fed Ex zip is 20001)

Review Criteria

Concept papers will be reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

- ◆ Responsiveness of proposal to COMPASS model.
- ◆ History of successful coordinated public safety efforts at the local level.
- ◆ Current local capacity to collect and automate data.
- ◆ Ability and willingness to become NIBRS-compliant.
- ◆ How data is currently being used to inform public safety policy and practice.
- ◆ History of collaborative partnerships with researchers.
- ◆ Quality (e.g., comprehensiveness and clarity) of proposal.

Next Steps

NIJ and its partners will review the concept papers received by May 19, 2000. We will be screening with the goal of inviting representatives from 15 - 20 jurisdictions to a one-day meeting to be held this summer in Washington, D.C. to discuss the COMPASS approach in more detail. After that meeting, should you still be interested in competing to be a COMPASS site, we will ask you to submit a full proposal. Based on those proposals and site visits to a small number of sites, we will select one pilot COMPASS site for fiscal year 2000 funding. We will also use this process to select a short list of sites (approximately 8 -10) to be considered for fiscal year 2001 funding, should it become available. Our basic timeline for this competition is as follows:

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| 1. Receive letters of intent | May 5 |
| 2. Receive 15-page concept papers | May 19 |
| 3. Invite selected sites to attend COMPASS 101 meeting | June 16 |
| 4. Hold COMPASS 101 meeting | July 14 |
| 5. Receive full proposals | August 18 |
| 6. Conduct site visits to 3 - 5 sites | September - October |
| 7. Select and announce FY 2000 COMPASS site | September - October |
| 8. Select short list of sites to be considered for FY 2001 funding | September-October |

If you have issues for which you would like clarification, you may contact Laura Winterfield (202-616-3482; winterfi@ojp.usdoj.gov) or Erin Dalton (202-514-5752; daltona@ojp.usdoj.gov). For specific questions about NIBRS, please contact Kevin Strom (202-616-9491; stromk@ojp.usdoj.gov)